

[Sri. A. J. John]

respect of the nationalised bus routes is proposed to be debited to "Transport Working Expenses" instead of to "Civil Works".

Revenue Expenditure

23. Turning to the expenditure side, provision has been made only for those items of new expenditure which are unavoidable and are likely to be immediately remunerative. The expenditure on account of travelling allowance and contingencies has also been scrutinised with great care and very substantial cuts have been made.

24. In this connection the House will be interested to know that out of the gross expenditure of Rs. 1,491.32 lakhs provided in the Budget, nearly 20 per cent, or Rs. 268.48 lakhs is in respect of obligatory expenditure like interest, pensions, fixed contribution to Devaswams and Sreepandaravagai Fund allowances to members of the Ruling Families of Travancore and Cochin, and Sinking Fund Investments. In addition a sum of Rs. 9.45 lakhs is charged to the revenue for payment of allowances to the Rajpramukh, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, and Salaries to the Judges of the High Court and Members of the Public Service Commission. The expenditure covered by standing sanctions for the payment of salaries and allowances to officers of Government and expenditure under T. A. and Contingencies accounts for another Rs. 5 crores nearly. These items are not capable of reduction to any appreciable extent and have to be met in any case. The total of the obligatory charged and sanctioned expenditure is about Rs. 8 crores which leaves only about Rs. 7 crores for nation-building activities. It is with this background that the budget estimate for the coming year has to be considered.

With these preliminary remarks, I shall now pass on to the detailed analysis of the important items of expenditure.

25. In respect of expenditure on existing services in administrative departments, including law and order, no special allotments have been made. In view, however, of the transfer of Military to the Centre, the police force required for internal security has to be strengthened. A lump sum provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made for this purpose.

Development Schemes

FOOD SUPPLIES AND GROW MORE FOOD

26. The most anxious problem which the Government have to face is that of providing adequate supplies of food to the people at reasonable prices. In normal years the State is deficit in its food production by about 50 per cent. of its requirements and during this year the food shortage was accentuated by natural calamities like the failure of the monsoon and the breaching of the bunds in the Kuttanad reclamation areas. The food situation in the coming year is expected to be very difficult. For the year 1951 we have been allotted 325,000 tons of food grains as against our over-all requirement of about 478,000 tons. On account of the difficult food position in the country as a whole, the over-all ration throughout the Union has been reduced by 25 per cent. and fixed at 9 oz. per adult. Accordingly the composition of the ration in the State has been fixed at 7 oz. rice and 2 oz. wheat and other grains. We have made strong representations to the Centre to allot more food grains to the State, but there is no immediate prospect of securing additional supplies. It is hoped that the stock position in the Union may improve after April and we are assured that our request for more foodgrains will then be favourably considered. In the meantime, Government are endeavouring their utmost to augment the production of food in the country.